

Cordes-sur-Ciel is one of the Midi-Pyrénées oldest walled towns; a town whose prosperity symbolized the region in the Middle Ages. It was founded in 1222 by Raimond VII, the count of Toulouse. He wishes this new town to be a stronghold against the troops advancing from the north of France to eliminate the Cathars.



Cordes-sur-Ciel quickly became prosperous from the cloth, silk and leather trades. In the 13th and 14th centuries, the merchants and noblemen had luxurious residences built: Maison du Grand Ecuyer (House of the Great Horseman), Maison du Grand Veneur (House of the Great Huntsman), Maison du Grand Fauconnier (House of the Great Falconer), and other Gothic palaces protected by the formidable fortifications surrounding the town.

Strolling through the steep alleyways, you will notice the sculptures on Cordes-sur-Ciel's houses. Their expressiveness and sheer numbers are extraordinary.



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